

THURSDAY, JANUARY 16, 2025

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FREE

Embree's third-period goal lifts Bulldogs over PAC



JOSHUA SPAULDING

Jaxen Lien looks to pass the puck from the corner during action against Pembroke-Campbell on Saturday.

BY JOSHUA SPAULDING

Sports Editor

LACONIA — The Belmont-Gilford hockey team welcomed Pembroke-Campbell to town for a Saturday afternoon tilt at Merrill Fay Arena.

The Bulldogs got the lead early in the second period before PAC tied

the game early in the third period. However, Belmont-Gilford answered that goal and held tight for the 2-1 win.

Evan Guerin had a couple of early chances and Ethan Girard and Nathan Gerbig had bids denied by the PAC keeper, as did Ethan Ellingson.

Ben Girard made a good defensive stop and Tyler Mull and Ethan Girard came back with chances that were denied. Jaxen Lien got in close on a bid and Carson McGreevy made a good save on a PAC bid in close.

Belmont-Gilford took a five-minute penalty with 10:50 to go in the period and used good clears from Colton Byars, Guerin and Brayden Mercier helped to kill off the first few minutes of the penalty. Jaxson Embree sent



JOSHUA SPAULDING

Ethan Ellingson battles in front of the net during action on Saturday against Pembroke-Campbell.

a shot wide before PAC took a penalty to make it four-on-four for two minutes. Sean Ellis and Lien had chances denied by the PAC goalie and Byars also had a chance stopped before the penalty was killed off. PAC had a brief power play that the Bulldogs finished off.

Embree just missed connecting with Lien before Guerin, Lien and Mull had chances denied while Ben Girard just missed connecting with Lien on a chance. After a

good defensive stop from Ethan Girard, Guerin and Embree had shots denied as the first period ended with no score on the board.

PAC had early bids in the second period, with McGreevy making the saves in the net before the Bulldogs got him a goal to work with. With 12:46 to go in the second period, Ellingson sent a pass in front and the puck bounced around before Ben Girard poked it into the net for the 1-0 lead. El-

lingson and Byars got the assists on the tally. PAC came right back with a chance that went off the post and Max Ryder had a chance in close for the Bulldogs.

Mercier had a bid denied and McGreevy turned away four more chances as PAC pressured. Ellingson had a shot stopped and Ryder and Embree teamed up on a terrific chance that saw the PAC keeper make a stellar save. Guerin

SEE HOCKEY, PAGE A8

Filing for Alton offices starts Jan. 22

BY ERIN PLUMMER

mnews@salmonpress.news

ALTON — Several town and school district positions will be open for filing starting on Jan. 22.

Any registered Alton voter can file for office at the town clerk's office between Wednesday, Jan. 22 and Friday, Jan. 31.

Two positions on the board of selectmen are open, each for a three-year term. Paul LaRoche and Andrew Morse currently serve in those positions.

Three positions are open on the Budget Committee. Two positions have a three-year term with Leann LaPlante and Elizabeth Varney serving in those seats. One seat will have a two-year term.

Two positions are open on the Planning Board, each for a three-year term. Andrew Carter and William O'Neill currently serve in those positions.

The Zoning Board of Adjustment has two, three-year positions open. Thomas Lee and Timothy Morgan currently hold in those seats.

The position of town treasurer is open for a

two-year term.

One seat is open as Trustee of the Trust Funds for a three-year term with Thomas Diveny currently in that position.

Two seats are open on the Library Trustees, each for a three-year term. Annette Slipp and Kristine Simone currently serve in those seats.

For the Alton School District, two seats are open on the school board for three-year terms with Carol Locke and Anne Pierce currently serving.

The position of School District Moderator is open with a one-year term, a role currently filled by Cydney Shapleigh.

The school clerk position is open for a one-year term with Linda Roy currently serving.

School treasurer is open for filing for a one-year term with Teri Cox currently in that role.

Filing papers for town and school district offices are available at the town clerk's office at town hall during office hours Monday through Thursday from 7 a.m.-5:30. The last day of filing is Friday, Jan. 31, and the office will be open from 3-5 p.m.

Gilford proposes new \$11.2 million DPW building

BY ERIN PLUMMER

mnews@salmonpress.news

GILFORD — Voters will decide on an \$11.2 million project to construct a new Public Works Facility with officials saying the current facility has numerous health, safety, maintenance, and storage issues.

The selectmen held two public hearings during the Jan. 8 meeting for two different warrant articles that will go before voters in March. Article 3 would raise and appropriate \$11.2 million in bonds for the design and construction if a new

Public Works facility. The article was originally for \$12 million, but was later amended to reflect an update in the project cost.

Richard Grenier, Chair of the DPW Building Needs Committee, and Public Works Director Meghan Theriault talked about the proposed project and the path that led to this article.

The proposed new building is the result of around four years of extensive planning and review by town officials and a building committee.

The current DPW facility is a two-story building measuring around 12,000 square feet. Theriault said those measurements do not include all the various storage locations all around town.

Theriault said the building has numerous structural and health and safety issues and does not meet the department's space and storage needs. She said the town's insurance company Primex did an audit of the facility and reiterated many of the problems.

Water frequently gets into the building,

resulting in mold and rot. Pipes have burst, resulting in water seeping into the lower levels and the building settling. The HVAC system has frequent problems and needed regular repairs.

She said ventilation in the building is "very poor" and the poor condition of the air exchange results in fumes spreading through all parts of the facility, including administrative areas and break rooms.

The building has unreliable backup power. During a recent weather

SEE BUILDING, PAGE A8

Cold temps mean progress on local ice rinks

BY ERIN PLUMMER

mnews@salmonpress.news

REGION — As temperatures drop, one community ice rink is now open while another is seeking volunteers to get together.

Temperatures sharply dropped in the first full week of January, and volunteers worked on different local rinks.

New Durham's ice rink was recently opened for the season.

The New Durham Parks and Recreation Department posted on its Facebook page on Jan. 12 that the rink at Club Pond was now cleared. The post showed photos of people working to clear snow off the ice.

"Thank you to everyone that helped clearing the ice off," read the post. "The ice rink is open and looks great!"

In Barnstead, the rink liner is at the end of its life and Parks and Recreation is looking for volunteers to try another



COURTESY PHOTO

Volunteers clear off the ice rink at Club Pond in New Durham. Photo courtesy of the New Durham Parks and Recreation Department's Facebook page.

method to get it open.

Barnstead Parks and Recreation posted on its Facebook page on Jan. 5 that the liner that was nearing the end of its life had been ripped and sliced in many places when people skated when the rink was closed.

"Our current plan is to redo the rink in spring of 2025 so investing in an expensive liner for 1 winter (generally a few

weeks of skating) was not feasible," read the post.

Barnstead Parks and Rec said the rink could be installed this year if water is applied a little at a time to create a series of thin ice layers.

"It's going to take a lot of help, consistent cold temps and a longer amount of time to get it (if even possible) to a skateable surface," read the post.

Parks and Rec is seeking volunteers to sign up for a shift to add water to the rink, saying if enough people volunteer there could be a chance this process could work. Message the Barnstead Parks and Recreation Department on its Facebook page to help.

As of our press deadline this week, the statuses of the ice rinks in Gilford and Alton were unknown.

Millar named Police Chief in New Durham

NEW DURHAM — The New Durham Board of Selectmen has announced the hiring of Eric Millar to serve as police chief for the town.

Millar has extensive law enforcement experience, in-

cluding many years serving in Strafford County.

The new chief will be sworn in on Thursday, Jan. 16, and it is anticipated that a Meet and Greet with the public will be scheduled soon.

Alton Parks and Recreation Community Connection

Alton Bay Winter Carnival — Warming Hut
 There will be a Warming Hut on Sunday, Feb. 16 from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Alton Bay Community Center located at 58 Mt. Major Highway, across from Pop's Clam Shell. Stop by during the Winter Carnival and warm up in the cozy space by making a seasonal craft, or play a fun game. This event is free and all ages are welcome. For more information contact Alton Parks and Recreation at 603-875-0109 or parksrec@alton.nh.gov. Restrooms during Winter Carnival will be available next to Shibley's Drive In. Parking is available along Mt. Major Highway/Rte. 11.

Valentine's Day cards for seniors
 We need your help to send smiles this Valentine's Day! Alton Parks and Recreation is collecting Valentine's Day Cards for our Seniors. Our goal is to collect 100 cards, which will be hand delivered to the Seniors in town in partnership with the Alton Senior Center. Send or drop off your cards by February 5 to the Alton Parks and Recreation Department at 328 Main St. For more information contact Alton Parks and Recreation at parksrec-asst@alton.nh.gov or 603-875-0109.

Gilman Museum- Open House
 The Town of Alton is sponsoring an Open House at the Gilman Museum, located at 123 Main St., on Friday, Jan. 24 from 1-3 p.m. Take a self-guided tour of the Gilman

Weight Training Classes — Mondays and Wednesdays
 The Alton Parks and Recreation Department is sponsoring Weight Training Classes on Mondays and Wednesdays from 1:30-2:30 p.m. at the Gilman Library for adults of all ages and abilities. Build strong muscles and bones, increase flexibility and develop better balance. Bring light hand weights, a mat and water. For more information, contact parksrec@alton.nh.gov or 603-875-0109. Try a class for free. \$20 per month/session or \$5 drop in.

Guided Meditation with instructor Karen Kharitonov
 The Alton Parks and Recreation Department and Friends of the Gilman Library is sponsoring a Guided Meditation experience on Thursday Jan. 30 from 6:30-7:15 p.m. at the Gilman Library, Agnes Thompson Meeting Room. The program is free. For more information contact Alton Parks and Recreation at parksrec@alton.nh.gov or 603-875-0109.

Gilman Museum- Open House
 The Town of Alton is sponsoring an Open House at the Gilman Museum, located at 123 Main St., on Friday, Jan. 24 from 1-3 p.m. Take a self-guided tour of the Gilman

Museum, and see antiques collected by the Gilman family. The museum collection features furniture, toys, dinnerware, and other fine displays. For more information, contact parksrec@alton.nh.gov or 603-875-0109.

Holistic Health Workshop Series — Reiki Discussion
 The Alton Parks and Recreation Department and Gilman Library are sponsoring a Holistic Health Workshop Series in 2025, and the first topic is a Reiki Discussion and the natural benefits of

energy healing. Join Reiki Master Teacher, Carol Wallace at the Gilman Library on Thursday, Feb. 20 from 1-2 p.m. in the Agnes Thompson Meeting Room. The discussion will cover an overview of Reiki, and how the energy healing practice can aid in the pro-

motion of physical, emotional and mental well-being. If you are interested in natural remedies and holistic healthcare, this is a good topic to explore. This program is free. Please RSVP to 603-875-0109 or parksrec@alton.nh.gov by Feb. 18 to reserve your seat.

Petitioned article proposes improvements to Gilford baseball fields

BY ERIN PLUMMER
 mnews@salmonpress.news

GILFORD — A petitioned warrant article for a \$500,000 project to make different renovations at town baseball fields will go before voters at town meeting.

Supporters of Gilford Youth Baseball have submitted a petition article to make different improvements to the varsity field, Village Field, and Stonewall Park. Mike Giovanditto, president of Gilford Youth Baseball, spoke with the selectmen about the article and the proposed projects during a Jan. 8 public hearing.

"These upgrades will not only enhance the experience for our players and spectators, but will also address safety, accessibility, and community pride," Giovanditto said.

The project will install an artificial turf infield at the varsity field.

Giovanditto said the proposed turf field will create a more even playing surface and reduces injuries. It will also extend the field's usability for the season and requires less maintenance.

The turf field will eliminate the need for regular mowing, which Giovanditto said has been an ongoing issue. He said sometimes they don't know if any grass is cut before a game and

he has even mowed the grass himself. Selectman Kevin Hayes asked if mowing is the responsibility of the town or the school district. Giovanditto said he has heard different answers on this during different times of the year.

"In the end, it all comes out of the same pocket," Hayes said. "The school district money or town money, it's coming out of the same pocket."

The project will also construct storage, concessions, and bathroom facilities at the Village Field.

"The concession and bathroom facilities at the Village Field are well overdue," Giovanditto said. "Families and spectators, including older adults and those with disabilities, have expressed the need for accessible and functional amenities."

He said the only area that players from many sports that use the fields can change is in the dugout, car, or woods and this project will give players more privacy.

The facilities will also serve the general public, especially during games and community events like Old Home Day.

The concession stand will also be made of block and steel and will be more secure.

"For many years, our current concession stand has also been broken into, vandal-

ized, and torn up, for which we have foot the bill," Giovanditto said. "Along with Parks and Recreation, Gilford baseball has paid yearly to fix that."

The new bathroom at Village Field will also save the town an annual cost on portable toilets.

The article also proposes to construct a concession stand and press box structure at Stonewall Park. Giovanditto said the press box and concession stand will help support larger games and regional events at the field.

The concession stands could be run by different groups at the different events, including school groups and community organizations.

Giovanditto said the league is asking for help from the town after investing more than \$200,000 in since 2016 for maintenance and improvements at the town's baseball fields. This has included putting in new dugouts and pitcher's mounds, a makeover of Francoeur Field, new siding on the Francoeur Field concession stand, regular maintenance, and more. The organization has received many private monetary donations as well as donations of labor and materials from different local businesses.

He said there is a growing demand for the fields. Last year

around 200 people participated in the town's baseball leagues, a record number.

"Investment in these fields is an investment in our community," Giovanditto said. "High quality facilities foster participation in spots and recreation, building confidence and teamwork among our kids."

He said there is a growing demand for the fields and the fields also bring many visitors who support local businesses.

Giovanditto said the league will seek donations for this project including money and in-kind services. The projected cost \$500,000 cost for the project is before any donations.

Gilford Youth Baseball will continue to supporting the regular maintenance efforts on the fields.

"I ask you see this more than just an expenditure, it's an opportunity to build something lasting for our children, for the families who cheer them on, and the future of our town," Giovanditto said. "We've shown that we've been willing to do our part, now we ask you for your support to take these improvements to the next level. Together we can make these fields a source of pride, safety, and opportunity for all of Gilford."

The selectmen voted unanimously to recommend the article.

New courses for the new year

LACONIA — A new course of study has begun at the Unitarian Universalist Society of Laconia, and is open to interested members of the wider Lakes Community. The next session begins on Jan. 16, on Zoom only, is ten sessions, entitled Lost Christianities, by Dr. Bart Ehrmann as part of the Great Courses lecture series.

This class consists of watching and listening to two lectures each time we meet, followed by discussion. Class time takes about an hour and a half and is facilitated by Rev. Judith Wright, minister of UUSL. There are twenty lectures left in this series, and so the class will meet every other week for ten times. Lost Christianities is a course that considers the varieties of belief and prac-

tice in the early days of Christianity, before the Christian church decided which books should be included in its canon of Scripture. Including in these lectures are the early Christians who identified as Christian-Jews (The Ebionites), Thomas' Gnostics Teaching, and the Gospel of Peter, all of which are not included in The New Testament.

Are you looking for something in the new year to start? Come join us in our exploration of Christian beliefs and practices in the second and third centuries A.D! This class is on-going and you can join in its study at any point. If you are interested, please contact Rev. Judith Wright at UUSL@myfairpoint.net or call her at 603-524-6488.

Julia Leavitt named to Husson University's President's List

BANGOR, Maine — Congratulations to Julia Leavitt of Alton, who has been named to Husson University's President's List for the Spring 2024 semester of the 2023-2024 academic year.

Leavitt is studying toward a degree in BS Exercise Science - Doctor of Physical Therapy at Husson.

Full-time students who earn President's List, Dean's List and

Honors List recognition must be enrolled as an undergraduate, carry a full-time load of 12 credit hours over the course of 21 weeks, complete all attempted courses in the time allotted, and achieve a designated semester grade-point average. Credits from pass/fail classes do not qualify toward meeting the minimum credit hour requirement. President's List: 3.80

to 4.0 semester grade-point average

Dean's List: 3.60 to 3.79 semester grade-point average

Honor's List: 3.40 to 3.59 semester grade-point average

For 125 years, Husson University has prepared future leaders to handle the challenges of tomorrow through innovative undergraduate and graduate degrees. With a commitment to

delivering affordable classroom, online and experiential learning opportunities, Husson University has offered quality educational programs in business; health and education; pharmacy studies; science and humanities; and communication. For more information about educational opportunities that can lead to personal and professional success, visit Husson.edu.

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Artistic fusion

McQuades unveil mcquadefinearts.com at Historic Belknap Mill Riverside Gallery

LACONIA — We are thrilled to announce the merger of scmquade.com and photopiks.net into a new, unified platform, mcquadefinearts.com. This exciting new venture combines the artistic visions of Mike and Stephanie McQuade, bringing together paintings, photography, and mixed media under one roof.

Celebration event at historic Belknap Mill Riverside Gallery

To celebrate this significant milestone, Mike and Stephanie McQuade are hosting an exclusive exhibition at the historic Belknap Mill in Laconia, NH. The exhibition will run throughout January, showcasing their latest works in a unique setting that honors both art and history.

Public reception

Join us for a special reception on Friday, Jan. 17, from 5 to 7 p.m. This is a fantastic opportunity to meet Mike and Stephanie in person, discuss their art, and gain insights



into their creative processes. Light refreshments will be served,

providing a warm, convivial atmosphere to enjoy the arts.

Mike McQuade's photography and Stephanie's paintings have each garnered significant acclaim

for their unique styles and profound emotional depth. Together, under mcquadefinearts.com, they aim to inspire and connect with art lovers across various mediums.

For more information, please contact:

- Email: mmcquade@mcquadefinearts.com
- Visit: mcquadefinearts.com

We look forward to welcoming you to the historic Belknap Mill and sharing this new chapter in our artistic journey with you.

Local residents named to Dean's List at Saint Michael's College

COLCHESTER, Vt. — Madison G. Eastman of Gilford was named to the Dean's List at Saint Michael's College for the Fall 2024 semester. Students who complete at least 12 credits of classes and achieve a grade point average of at least 3.5 in a particular semester are cited on the Dean's List for that semester.

About Saint Michael's College

Saint Michael's College, founded on principles of social justice and leading lives of purpose and consequence, is a selective, Catholic col-

lege just outside Burlington, Vermont, one of the country's best college towns. Located between the Green Mountains and Lake Champlain, our closely connected community guarantees housing all four years and delivers internationally respected liberal arts together with an innovative Purposeful Learning Program, preparing students for fulfilling careers and meaningful lives. Young adults here grow intellectually, socially, and morally, learning to be responsible for themselves, each other, and their world.

Gilford residents named to UConn Dean's List

STORRS, Conn. — Eva Lacey and Makenzie Smith of Gilford have been named to the

Dean's List at the University of Connecticut for the fall semester of 2024.

Laconia Adult Education Winter 2025 Class Schedule

Course Title	Day(s) of the week	Start date	Times	# of weeks	Cost	Location	Instructor Name
Enrichment Classes							
Arts & Crafts							
DIY Wedding and Event Flowers	Wed	2/5/2025	6:00-8:00pm	4	** \$125.00	LHS-509	Shirley Glines
Creating a Spring Wreath	Wed	3/19/2025	6:00-8:30 pm	1	**\$70.00	LHS-509	Shirley Glines
Health & Wellness							
Freedom Through Forgiveness	Thu	5/1/2025	6:30-8:30pm	1	\$45.00	LHS-615	Brenda Paquette
Introduction to Spiritual Energies	Thu	3/6/2025	6:30-8:30pm	1	\$45.00	LHS-615	Brenda Paquette
Meditation 101	Thu	4/3/2025	6:30-8:30pm	1	\$45.00	LHS-615	Brenda Paquette
What are Angels & How to Communicate w/them	Thu	3/20/2025	6:30-8:30pm	1	\$45.00	LHS-615	Brenda Paquette
Yoga for Everyone: Beginning (Tues & Thurs) Session 1	Tue, Thu	1/28/2025	5:00-6:15 pm	4	\$50.00	ctc-H225	Bonnie Morin
Yoga for Everyone: Beginning (Tues & Thurs) Session 2	Tue, Thu	3/4/2025	5:00-6:15 pm	4	\$50.00	ctc-H225	Bonnie Morin
Yoga for Everyone: Beginning (Tues & Thurs) Session 3	Tue, Thu	4/1/2025	5:00-6:15 pm	4	\$50.00	ctc-H225	Bonnie Morin
Learning a skill							
Basic Woodworking	Thu	2/13/2025	6:00-8:30pm	8	** \$110.00	LHS-517	Wes Anderson
CERT Training (Community Emergency Response Team)	Tue	3/5/2025	6:00-9:00pm	12	\$30.00	LHS 615	John Beland
Intro to Intermediate Woodworking	Wed	TBA	6:00-8:30 pm	8	TBA	LHS-517	Ed Philpot
Open Shop Woodworking	Tue	2/11/2025	6:00-8:30 pm	10	**\$110.00	LHS-517	Ed Philpot
Welding Fundamentals: ARC,GAS,MIG&TIG- Tuesdays	Tue	2/11/2025	5:30-8:30 pm	10	** \$350.00	Welding Lab	Bruce Beckford
Welding Fundamentals: ARC,GAS,MIG&TIG- Wednesday	Wed	2/12/2025	5:30-8:30 pm	10	** \$350.00	Welding Lab	Bruce Beckford
Diploma Classes							
Economics/ Civics	Mon	1/28/2025	6:00-9:00pm	15	\$280.00	LHS-612	J. McLeod
English	Tues	1/21/2025	6:00-9:00pm	15	\$280.00	LHS-312	J. Ratcliffe
US History	Wed	1/22/2025	6:00-9:00pm	15	\$280.00	LHS-304	T. Osborne
Foundations of Math II	Thurs	1/23/2025	6:00-9:00pm	15	\$280.00	LHS-611	A. Stefanik
Adult Education and Literacy Classes							
High School Equivalency Classed (GED and HSET)	Mon & Wed.	2/3/2025	6:00-8:30PM	12	FREE	LHS-606	J. Andrews & T. Krivitsky
English as a Second Language (ESL)	Tues & Thurs.	2/4/2025	6:00-8:30PM	12	FREE	LHS-604	M. Rudolf
Adult Basic Education-Reading	Tues & Thurs.	1/21/2025	6:00-8:30PM	12	FREE	LHS-221	J. Hoell

** Additional Supply/book fee or pre-class requirement is additional in this course.

CHECK ONLINE FOR MORE DETAILED COURSE INFORMATION (Including materials, book fees or Labs)

REGISTER AND PAY ONLINE at: adulthoodlaconia.weebly.com

Still have questions? Call Laconia Adult Education at 524-5712

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We Will NOT be Undersold

Opinion

SECTION A, PAGE 4

SALMON PRESS, THURSDAY, JANUARY 16, 2025

The ties that really matter

You never really think about how much a good friend means until life throws you a curveball or a moment of joy, and you look around for someone to share it with. A true friend isn't just a person who's around when it's convenient; they're the ones who stick with you through life's messier moments, offering support when you need it and calling you out when you need that too. But as the years pass, it's easy to let these relationships fade into the background, overshadowed by work, family, and the endless demands of daily life.

Friendship isn't just a nice thing to have; it's a cornerstone of what makes life meaningful. Studies show that strong relationships can boost mental health, reduce stress, and even help us live longer. But this isn't about science. It's about the people who make you laugh until your ribs hurt, who know your embarrassing stories and love you anyway. These bonds are rare, and they deserve more care than we often give them.

Think about your own life, your moments of celebration, your hardest days. Who was there with you, either physically or in spirit? A good friend is the one who shows up, even when it's inconvenient, and listens without judgment. They're the person you call when you need advice but also when you just need someone to laugh with. That kind of bond doesn't come along every day, and when it does, it deserves to be nurtured.

But here's the thing: friendships don't maintain themselves. Life's busy pace often makes us assume that the people who matter will always be there, even if we don't put in the effort. Days turn into months, and before we know it, the people who once meant everything become distant memories. It's not intentional, it's just what happens when life gets in the way. Yet the cost of losing those connections can be profound, leaving us feeling isolated or unmoored when we need them most.

The good news? It doesn't take much to rebuild or maintain those bonds. A quick phone call, a handwritten note, or even a spontaneous "How are you?" text can remind someone they matter to you. Showing up doesn't always have to mean grand gestures; often, it's the little acts of consistency that count. It's not about having dozens of close friends; one or two truly meaningful relationships are enough to make a world of difference.

As life keeps moving forward, take a moment to think about the friends who've been there through thick and thin. Reach out to the ones you haven't spoken to in a while, even if it feels awkward at first. Friendship, like anything worth having, takes effort, but the rewards are immeasurable. A good friend isn't just someone who walks into your life, they're someone who stays. Make sure you do your part to keep them there.

In the end, life's most valuable currency isn't money or success; it's the people who stand by us through all of it. Good friends remind us of who we are when we forget, and they make even the hardest days a little easier to bear. Don't let the busyness of life rob you of one of its greatest gifts. Stay in touch. Stay connected. Because the best friendships are worth holding onto, no matter how far life pulls you apart.

Letter submission policy

Letters to the Editor must include the author's name, address, and a daytime phone number for purposes of verification in order to be considered for publication. Only the author's name and the town in which they reside will be published. Letters submitted without all of the required information will not be accepted.

It is the sole prerogative of the Editor to determine whether a submission satisfies our requirements and decency standards, and any submission may be rejected at any time for any reason he or she might deem appropriate.



JOSHUA SPAULDING

Bruins in Wolfeboro

The Friends of Kingswood Hockey hosted the Boston Bruins Alumni Game at Pop Whalen Arena on Saturday, Jan. 4. The Bruins faced off against a pair of Kingswood All-Star teams featuring local players who raised money to take part in the game. Kingswood-Prospect Mountain girls' hockey assistant coach Dave Sykes was the highest fundraiser for the second year in a row and as a reward, got to play on the Bruins team. The Bruins came through with the 9-4 win, with Josh Anderson, Kevin Haslam, Dave Richard and Kyle Campagna doing the scoring for the Kingswood squad.

LETTERS FROM EDWIN

Refuse

It's Christmas vacation week at the mountain. Today is my first day here this season. Hey, it's finally getting cold. The snow making machines are going gang busters and we're expecting a couple inches of real stuff tonight. Yeah Hoo, let it snow!

Getting back to reality for a few minutes. The maintenance guys are out thawing the pipes in the ladies facility. After which they'll attend to the frozen pipes here in the shack. I know where it is. It's always between the two buildings that were glommed together. Inside the uninsulated wall in which the pipe traverses. All the other pipes are inside. It may be an interior wall, but that little five inch section of pipe is our Achilles heel.

It's once again time to familiarize myself with the computer system. I thought I had my passwords written down. I found out otherwise. Nothing is ever easy, is it? Even the new password my supervisor told me to fire up the system was incorrect. There once was a time when these things weren't case sensitive. I guess I'm exposing my age.

The lock on the storage shed was frozen up too. We used to have a propane torch just for such times. I looks like it did the old, I could use one of these, walks to the parking lot. Luckily, I drove up in my truck and dug out mine. With a couple bursts of heat, the lock snapped open. I could have probably used a lighter.

The combination of the new snow with what we've been making should be an adequate start. A foot or two would be nice. I still feel that winter should mean lots of snow. These last couple of years have been disgustingly sparse of the white stuff. I may regret saying that, but then again, when I was growing up the snow depths were over my head. Yes, I was a bit shorter then, but life still went on.

One of the things that we used to do to show off our daring and physical prowess back then was bumper hopping. Plus, it was quite fun. When a car slowed to turn the corner down in the village, it was easy to run out and grab the rear bumper and get pulled all the way up the hill just sliding on the souls of your boots up

the snow covered road. Today's cars no longer have bumpers. They have these plastic covery things that look like bumpers. A walk through a parking lot usually exposes what these things actually are. Totally useless. Purely cosmetic. Plastic junk.

Have you heard of all these micro plastic particles that are showing up everywhere? Why would one question such a phenomenon? There's no free ride here. We eased up our lives by using petroleum products. There's bound to be some drawbacks. Now how about plastics (also made from petroleum)? We've been spreading them around the planet for decades now, hoping that the actions of the sun would eventually break them down. Or that they'd be buried forever. Well it looks like they don't just disappear and go away. What is now left filtering throughout the planet could be harmful they say? Well, who'd-a thunk it?

The kids in school think I'm crazy for reusing my old syrup bottle from the nineties. It's a kind of my famous characteristic. I think they're

polluting the place with all their single use plastic bottles. It being the holiday season, think of what your trash consisted of after opening your presents. Multiply that by most every household in the country, and greater world. We're such prolific producers of trash.

Last week, I forgot my old water bottle on the teacher's desk when I left school for the weekend. This bottle was a special one that had a handle and a carabiner that I could hook onto a belt loop when I went on a hike. When I returned the next week, I visited the teacher to see if he could have possibly saved my old relic. Wouldn't you know that he saved the cheap, "never use for climbing" carabiner and threw out my irreplaceable 20th century syrup dispensing bottle.

When I got home, I grabbed another similar container, filled it, and threw it in my lunch bag. This one has a sell by date of nineteen ninety three. I still qualify as using a twentieth century syrup bottle.

E.Twaste

Correspondence welcome at edwintwaste@gmail.com

Coral Castle

I've always been a person who loves to travel. Over the years, I've taken dozens of road trips, spanning almost every state. My dad used to take us on road trips in the motorhome, and he would stop for every historical marker, every boulder that seemed out of place, and every national park. If we saw a strange-looking animal, we'd stop to stare.

One place I learned about recently that I'd love to visit is the Coral Castle in Florida. The pictures are stunning, but what truly captivates me is the impossibility of how it was built.

Spanning over 1,100 square feet, the Coral Castle is made up of massive coral blocks, some weighing up to 30 tons—

equivalent to the weight of six elephants. These stones form walls, furniture, and intricate carvings, all seamlessly aligned.

Altogether, the structure contains over 1,000 tons of coral rock—a feat so astonishing that it defies explanation.

What makes the Coral Castle even more incredible is that it was built entirely by one man, Edward Leeds Kalnin.

From 1923 to 1951, Edward quarried, transported, and positioned these enormous stones, often working at night to protect his methods from prying eyes. Using only rudimentary tools like pulleys, levers, and wedges, he accomplished what

modern engineers with advanced machinery would find daunting.

To this day, experts are baffled by how Edward achieved such precision and scale without heavy equipment.

Perhaps what drove Edward to create the Coral Castle is even more remarkable than the structure itself. As the story goes, Edward was set to marry the love of his life, Agnes Scuffs, in his native Latvia. He called her his "Sweet Sixteen" because she was just 16 years old. On the eve of their wedding, however, she broke off the engagement, leaving Edward heartbroken.

Consumed by grief,

he emigrated to America and began work on what many believe was a monument to his unfulfilled love. Each stone, carved and placed with meticulous care, seemed to carry the weight of his devotion, a tangible expression of the loss he could never overcome.

The Coral Castle isn't just a feat of engineering—it's a mystery. I often write about how anything is possible, but have you ever considered that it might be possible for one man to move and position stones weighing 30 tons—all by himself? And not just move them, but do so in the dead of night, shrouded in secrecy?

Edward's work remains one of the most
SEE MOORE, PAGE A8

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Two new Gilman Library Raffles

ALTON — There are two new Friends of the Gilman Library Raffles at the Gilman Library, both to be drawn on Feb. 7. The First Raffle is called the “Sweet Tooth Resolution” and one lucky winner will receive a lovely wicker basket filled with a dozen different boxes and bags of assorted chocolates. The prize includes chocolates from Vanden Bulcke, Amoretta, and two boxes of Belgian chocolates. There are bags of La Suissa, Ghirardelli, and Lindt Truffles as well as two boxes of Beech’s and Queen Anne cordials. To top that off, you will find a packet of white-chocolate-covered pretzels, a box of coconut patties, and a package of chocolate-covered fruit-filled, gingerbread cookies. One lucky ticket, and oh, so many, sweet treats, enough to indulge and give some as sweet Valentine gifts.

The second raffle is the “Light up the New Year” box, containing a dozen assorted, both practical and beautifully romantic candles.

And though there is one ticket to win the whole box, there are enough unique candles to satisfy the candle collector and give some lovely Valentine’s gifts. You can see both raffles on display at the circulation desk at the Gilman Library. The price of a ticket is \$1, and \$5 will get you six tickets. It only takes one ticket to win, so why not buy one for each raffle? All proceeds from the Friends of the Gilman Library Fundraisers go to the direct benefit of the Gilman Library. Consider the price of a raffle ticket a small donation to a worthy cause and if you win, that’s a bonus! Remember, the drawing is Feb. 7, early enough for Valentine’s gift giving. We say thank you to the Friends of the Gilman Library for their support. We invite you to join the Friends and bring a friend with you.

In other library news, Preschool Story Time continues on the first and third Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m. There will be interactive stories

and a simple craft geared for young children.

Sm-Ar-Ti-Es Kids Science Club is moving to the second Wednesday of each month at 4 p.m. Sm-Ar-Ti-Es is a club where children learn about a science topic by reading a short picture book together and doing group projects or crafts related to the topic. This program encourages children to explore and experiment with science. Sign-up is required for each month’s session. Please sign up early for the program to ensure that enough project supplies are prepared. Please sign up at least two days in advance of the meeting. There must be at least two children signed up to hold the program.

Alton Book Chat book discussion meets on the Second Tuesday at 7 p.m. We have multiple copies of the selected titles. For more information, call the library at (603) 875-2550, or visit our Web page at gilmanlibrary.org and view the current selected title

information at gilmanlibrary.org/alton-bookchat-titles-1. We also have information about our monthly Theater Thursday Classic Movie Matinees, shown on the first Thursday at 1 p.m., posted on our website at gilmanlibrary.org/theater-Thursdays.

When you visit our website, you can also learn about our Friends of the Gilman Library group, activities with Alton Parks and Recreation at the Gilman Library, learn about the Friends of the Alton, NH Parks and Rec group, and take their online survey. You can also access the survey from any of our four public computers at the Gilman Library.

Don’t forget that our main business is providing your favorite books, magazines, audio, and videos. We have several brand-new titles this month to start the New Year off right. You can peruse our catalog online, reserve them from the website, and pick them up as you are driving by. You may prefer

to come inside to casually browse, and sit and read awhile in one of our relaxing reading areas.

Whichever you choose, we look forward to serving you. See you at the library!

Gilford Public Library Classes & Special Events Jan. 16 – Jan. 23

Thursday, Jan. 16
Geri Fit, 9am-10am
Aspiring Artists Storytime, 10:30-11:30 a.m.
Home School Club, noon-1:30 p.m.
Boost Your Brain and Memory, 1-3 p.m.
French Club, 4-5 p.m.
Book Discussion: This is Happiness, 5:30-6:30 p.m.

Friday, Jan. 17
Senior Sculpt, 9-10 a.m.
Heart ‘n Soul Chair Yoga, 10-11 a.m.
Bridge, 10 a.m.-noon
Preschool Storytime, 10:30-11:30 a.m.
Hand & Foot, 12:30-2:30 p.m.
Happy Crafters, 1:30-2:30 p.m.

Advanced Conversational German, 2:30-3:30 p.m.
Beginner Line Dancing, 4-5 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 18
Beginner Line Dancing, 10:30-11:30 a.m.
Awaken New Year Sound Bath, noon to 1 p.m.

Monday, Jan. 20
CLOSED FOR MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY
Tuesday, Jan. 21
Senior Sculpt, 9-10 a.m.
Geri Fit, 10-11 a.m.
Bridge, 10 a.m. to noon
Preschool Storytime, 10:30-11:30 a.m.
Health Happiness, 11-11:30 a.m.

Join this class to learn all the latest tips for making 2025 your healthiest year. This 30 minute class will touch on lots of ma-

ior health topics to help you live your best year: from the latest nutrition and exercise advice, to how to break bad habits, and how to create lasting healthy ones. This is the perfect class to kick start your 2025 health journey!
Intermediate Line Dancing, 2:30-3:30 p.m.
RPG Sessions, 3-4:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Jan. 22
Senior Stretch Yoga, 9-10 a.m.
Card Games, 10 a.m.-noon
Check out an Expert, 10 a.m.-noon
Successful Goal Setting, 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Are you thinking about your goals for 2025? Join Hannaford Dietitian, Braelynne Jurius, who will help us set the stage for successful goal setting. We will explore the stage of change theory, how to remove barriers to success, discuss tools for staying on track, and guide you toward creating a personalized plan.

Paint Group, 1-3 p.m.
Boredom Busters, 3-4 p.m.
Science Seekers: Crystals & Ice, 3:30-4:30 p.m.
Join Miss Erika for some cool chills & thrills with science!

Thursday, Jan. 23
Geri Fit, 9-10 a.m.
Aspiring Artists Storytime, 10:30-11:30 a.m.
Boost Your Brain and Memory, 1-3 p.m.
French Club, 4-5 p.m.

Gilford police log

GILFORD — The Gilford Police Department reported the following arrests from Dec. 16 to Jan. 12.

Nalini Maciel, age 47, was arrested on Dec. 16 for operating a motor vehicle with an unofficial inspection or registration decal.

Pamela Lee Hatch, age 55, was arrested on Dec. 17 in connection with multiple warrants.

Jerry Jon Theberge, age 74, was arrested on Dec. 17 for driving after revocation or suspension of license. Kimberly A. Coughlin, age 43, was arrested during the same incident in connection with a warrant.

Peter E. Morrisette, age 62, was arrested on Dec. 17 for Harassment.

Cody Stephen Lee, age 34, was arrested on Dec. 19 for Criminal Trespassing.

Jacbo Allen Lawrence, age 24, was arrested on Dec. 20 for operating a motor vehicle as a habitual offender and in connection with multiple warrants.

Heather L. Michael, age 41, was arrested on Dec. 24 for Resisting Arrest or Detention, Disobeying an Officer, and Receiving Stolen Property valued at less than \$1,000.

Wilfred Kennon Robertson, age 75, was arrested on Dec. 25 for driving after administrative revocation or suspension of license. Seth T. Neal, age 43, was arrested on Dec. 25 in connection with multiple warrants. Tristan B. Adriance, age 31, was arrested on Dec. 27 for driving after revocation or suspension of license and operating a motor vehicle after suspension of vehicle registration.

Seth Britton Hamill, age 39, was arrested on Dec. 28 for Resisting Arrest or Detention.

Resisting Arrest or Detention.

Shane M. Russell, age 38, was arrested on Dec. 31 for violating a Domestic Violence-Stalking order, driving after revocation or suspension of license, Disobeying an Officer, multiple counts of sale of a controlled drug, and in connection with multiple warrants.

Julia M. Norman, age 25, was arrested on Jan. 1 for Domestic Violence-Simple Assault resulting in bodily injury, Criminal Trespassing, and Criminal Mischief.

James F. Oliver, age 69, was arrested on Jan. 2 for driving after revocation or suspension of license (subsequent) and in connection with multiple bench warrants.

Jaice David Fowler, age 31, was arrested on Jan. 2 for Resisting Arrest or Detention, Disobeying an Officer,

and DUI-Impairment.

Jessica Vaudreuil, age 50, was arrested on Jan. 3 for Domestic Violence-Simple Assault resulting in Bodily Injury.

Frederick W. Avery, age 41, was arrested on Jan. 5 for operating a motor vehicle after suspension of vehicle registration and driving after revocation or suspension of license.

Susana Urena Ronzon, age 27, was arrested on Jan. 5 for driving after suspension of vehicle registration.

Kyle David Roukey, age 24, was arrested on Jan. 5 for DUI-Impairment, a Yellow/Solid Line Violation, and driving at a rate of speed more than 25 mph over a posted limit of 55 mph or less.

Daniel A. Lopez-Santiago, age 35, was arrested on Jan. 8 for driving after revocation or suspension of license.

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Mark Shilansky Trio featuring Grace Wallace to perform at Hermit Woods

MEREDITH — Hermit Woods is thrilled to welcome back the incredibly talented Grace Wallace for an unforgettable evening of music alongside the renowned Mark Shilansky Trio. Join us for a night of soulful vocals, reimagined classics, and exceptional original compositions in the unique, intimate atmosphere of The Loft.

Event details:
 • Complimentary Wine Tasting: 5:30 – 6 p.m.
 • Doors Open and Dinner Service: 6 p.m.

• Showtime: 7 p.m. (Drinks and dessert available during the show)

Grace Wallace, known for her smooth and understated vocal style, returns to Hermit Woods for her third mesmerizing performance. Grace's repertoire of reimagined jazz and pop classics from artists such as Bob Dylan, Burt Bacharach, and Cyndi Lauper, as well as her original works, promises to captivate audiences.

Accompanying Grace are three mas-

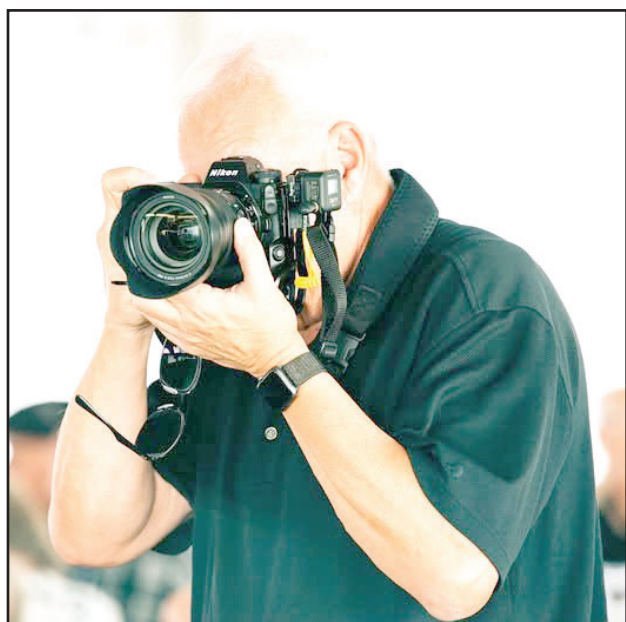


terful musicians: out New England and collaborations with celebrated jazz musicians, Grace has made a name for herself in the music scene. She is currently working on two albums set to release in early 2025.

Hermit Woods provides a true listening room experience where audiences can immerse themselves in the performance without distractions. Guests are encouraged to arrive early to enjoy the complimentary wine tasting and dinner service before the show. The kitchen closes at 7 p.m., when the performance begins, ensuring a quiet and intimate atmosphere. After the show, attendees will have the opportunity to meet the artists and explore their merchandise offerings.

Reserve your seat now to experience this exceptional evening of live music. Visit <https://hermitwoods.com/events/> to purchase tickets.

Belknap Mill offers "Exploring Photography" series



Alan MacRae

COURTESY PHOTO

LACONIA — The Belknap Mill is excited to offer another six-week series, "More Exploring Photography" with well-known local photographer, Alan MacRae. Classes will be Thursday evenings from 6 to 7:30 p.m. beginning Jan. 30.

"More Exploring Photography" will be an adventure looking at different areas of photography, structured around the interests of the group members. The only prerequisite is that you bring your desire to learn more about photography and a 'real' camera, not a cell phone camera. It doesn't have to be fancy or expensive but does need to have controls allowing you to adjust the aperture, shutter speed and ISO settings.

Born and raised in Laconia, MacRae has had a passion for photography since his childhood. He studied Business Administration at Plymouth State

University and Communications Engineering at Northeastern University and pursued careers in law enforcement and telecommunications until the age of 45, when he decided to devote himself to doing the thing he loved the most. He began his professional photography career by taking photos for the then fledgling Laconia Daily Sun with the support of publisher/editor Ed Engler. His work has appeared in newspapers and media streams across the country and the world through outlets like the New York Times, the New York Daily News, the Boston Globe, the London Times, Hearst Broadcasting, ABC News, CNN, Fox News and Good Morning America.

To register for the class or learn more about other classes and programs offered at the Belknap Mill, visit belknapmill.org/ classes.

terful musicians:

• Mark Shilansky (Piano) — Accomplished pianist, composer, and Berklee College of Music professor with a dynamic background in jazz, Latin, and original music.

• Austin McMahon (Drums) — One of Boston's most sought-after jazz drummers, known

for his work with world-renowned artists and performances at Carnegie Hall, the Kennedy Center, and international festivals.

• Greg Loughman (Bass) — A highly respected bassist and composer, celebrated for his lyrical style and performances through-

with renowned artists such as Jerry Bergonzi and the Rhythm Future Quartet.

Grace Wallace, originally from Worcestershire, England, discovered her passion for jazz after moving to the U.S. and studying with renowned mentors. With performances through-

BUILDING

(continued from Page A1) emergency the building lost both its power and backup power for a period of time.

As the department and the town itself have doubled over the course of 50 years, the facility has not and is considerably undersized for the DPW's needs. Theriault said while most people might be familiar with the department's work in road clearing and emergency management, the DPW is responsible for many other tasks including maintaining the town's fleet of vehicles and equipment, road and bridge maintenance, solid waste, maintenance of town buildings and property through buildings and grounds, support of sewer maintenance, and other responsibilities.

Storage is also inadequate, and there is no staging space for winter equipment. There is no overhead storage, and plows are left on the ground all summer.

"Even if you started fixing all these things that we talked about, the building is just completely undersized for the needs that the department has grown into over 50 years," Theriault said. "So even if we're able to fix all of the rot and all of the mold and the air exchange and everything we would still have a building that does not have the adequate storage and space to support the services that our de-



COURTESY PHOTO

Public Works Director Meghan Theriault and DPW Building Committee Chair Richard Grenier present a proposed new DPW facility to the selectmen.

partment does now. Grenier said the project was factored as part of the 10-year Capital Improvements Program. In 2020, voters approved an article putting \$50,000 toward the initial steps to review the building. Voters approved another article to plan for the project in 2021. The selectmen then created the DPW Building Needs Committee to examine the needs of the DPW's facilities which included residents as well as some town officials.

Grenier said earlier in the process an engineering firm evaluated the current facility and support buildings for the options of renovating them or converting them to cold storage and constructing two administrative buildings. Over the course of examinations, both options were found to be unfeasible.

The process also ruled out four other sites on the town campus as well as two off campus sites. Grenier said it was ultimately determined that the current location of the building was the best site for a new facility.

"I want people to know that we did look at putting the building in numerous spots, but they were all canceled," Theriault said.

She said the ideal location for a new building would have been across from the current facility, but that property is in a floodplain and wouldn't work to the department's

disappointment.

The town utilized architectural services from Banwell and Associates and construction management services by Bonnette, Page, and Stone. The process came up with a proposed building for the originally proposed price of \$12 million.

Theriault said this building is being designed to meet the department's needs for at least the next 50 years.

The proposed new building would be single story building measuring around 22,000 square feet. The right side of the building would have four double-deep bays, three double bays for mechanics, and one double bay for in-shop metal work. The DPW currently has four mobile lifts, and they would get six more so they can fully lift two much larger vehicles.

Left side will be for administrative space including offices, a locker room, training and conference space, unisex locker facilities with separate showers, and more. The plan also includes two extra offices for potential future growth.

Measures were taken through the planning process to save more money, including eliminating a second floor, eliminating closed vehicle storage and going with a pole barn, and others.

The project was initially proposed at \$12 million, but after a 50 percent review of the project it was edited down to \$11.2

million if more savings can be found between now and the deliberative session.

The presentation included the potential tax impact of the project by the different values of houses. The projected tax impact would be around 18 cents per \$1,000 in assessed valuation, which would have a \$45 impact per year on a property worth \$250,000 to \$180 per year for a house worth \$1 million. She also included how much that yearly cost is reflected in cups of coffee to provide another perspective with the impact on a \$250,000 property costing \$15 coffee cups a year and the impact on a \$1 million property costing \$60 coffee cups per year.

Theriault and Grenier said the DPW and the committee have been doing public outreach about the need for this project.

Grenier said in his history as an elected official one of the most frustrating things to hear was people saying that a project took them by surprise and was "sprung on election day."

He said information on this project is "all over the town website" and they have been doing many community outreach activities such as an open house of DPW facility and Theriault presenting at the Gilford Public Library.

"Its just frustrating to hear people say this was sprung on us," he said. "I urge you, the citizens, to talk to your neighbors about this and get the word out because being a bond issue it's a supermajority to get the bond certified. As the head of the committee, I'd like to see this passed."

The hearing received no public comment and the selectmen later voted unanimously in favor of recommending the amended article.

For information on the proposed project visit <https://www.gilfordnh.gov/entity/DPW-Building-Needs-Committee-36>.



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SPORTS

Sawyer picks up two more wins at PSU meet



JOSHUA SPAULDING

Macy Sawyer ran to two more wins at Plymouth State University on Saturday.



JOSHUA SPAULDING

Emily Aguiar clears a hurdle during action at Plymouth State University on Saturday morning.



JOSHUA SPAULDING

Dom Soucy sails through the air during the long jump competition at Plymouth State University.



JOSHUA SPAULDING

Mark Warren circles the track at Plymouth State University on Saturday.

BY JOSHUA SPAULDING
Sports Editor

PLYMOUTH — The Gilford indoor track team took part in a meet at Plymouth State University on Saturday.

Macy Sawyer had another good day for

the Golden Eagles, picking up two more wins.

In the 55 meters, Sawyer won the preliminaries in 7.68 seconds and then won the finals in 7.62 seconds. Emily Aguiar was 26th in 8.52 seconds, Grace

Southworth was 39th in 8.81 seconds and Catherine Fay was 44th in 9.08 seconds.

Sawyer then won the 600 meters in a time of 1:45.69 seconds with Southworth in 18th in 2:01.23 and Ariah Dewar in 24th place in 2:07.86.

Aguiar finished fifth in the 55-meter hurdles preliminaries in 10.24 seconds and in the finals placed sixth in 10.19 seconds. Agu-

iar added an 18th place in the 300 meters in 50.7 seconds, Fay was 24th in 53.23 seconds and Dewar was 32nd in 57.67 seconds.

The 4X400-meter relay team of Aguiar, Dewar, Southworth and Sawyer ran to second overall in a time of 4:41.63.

For the boys in the 55 meters, Dom Soucy was 51st in 7.89 seconds, Wren Reinholz was 52nd in the

same time and Connor Brough was 53rd in 7.91 seconds. In the 300 meters, Soucy was 35th overall in 46.98 seconds and in the 1,000, Mark Warren was 20th in 3:12.83 and Dalton Houle was 25th in 3:22.89.

Soucy was 29th in the long jump at 15 feet, five inches and Brough was 34th at 14 feet, 7.5 inches while in the shot put, Dustin Gerry was 22nd over-

all at 28 feet, 11 inches. The 4X400-meter team of Reinholz, Warren, Houle and Brough finished in 14th place overall in 4:22.42.

Gilford is scheduled to compete again at the University of New Hampshire on Sunday, Jan. 19, at 2:30 p.m.

Sports Editor Joshua Spaulding can be reached at 279-4516, ext. 155 or josh@salmonpress.news.

Golden Eagles swim at UNH to kick off 2025



COURTESY PHOTOS

The Gilford swim team competed at the University of New Hampshire over the first weekend of January.

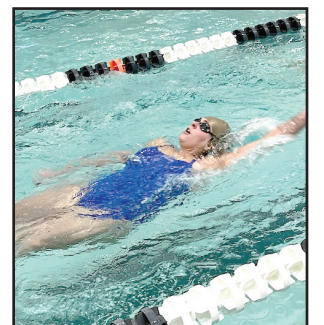
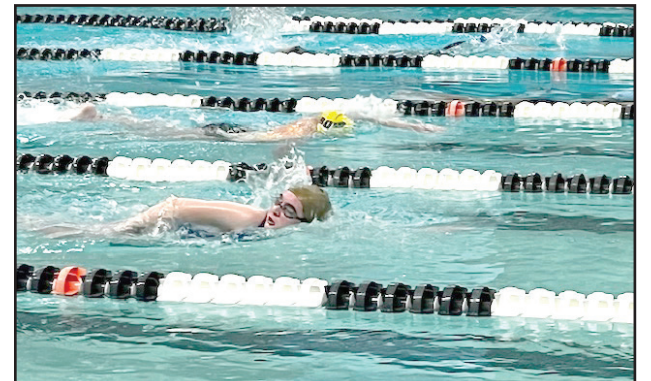
BY JOSHUA SPAULDING
Sports Editor

DURHAM — The Gilford swim team returned from the holiday break with a meet at the Swasey Pool at the University of New Hampshire in Durham on Jan. 5.

In the opening event of the day, the 200-yard medley relay, the group of Audrey Bondaz, Alyssa McKenna, Elise Graton and Natalie Clay finished in a time of 2:56.71. The first individual event for Gilford was the

200-yard freestyle, where Bailey Juurlink Gagne cut more than five seconds off her seed time.

In the 50 freestyle there were five Golden Eagles amongst the more than 80 swimmers in the event and dropped anywhere from half a second to more than five seconds from their seed times. Graton led the way for the Gilford girls with a 20th place finish, with Bondaz, Guinevere Freeman, Clay and McKenna joining her in the girls' race.



In the boys' 50 freestyle, Nate Correia swam to a time of 29.83 seconds and he also swam in the 100 freestyle and finished in 17th place overall.

Graton, Bondaz and McKenna all swam in the 100-yard freestyle, with Bondaz and McKenna each dropping more than five seconds from their seed time.

In the 200-yard freestyle relay, Graton led the charge out of the gate with a fast 50, followed

by Bondaz, Clay and Juurlink Gagne with a combined time of 2:35.74.

The final event of the day saw Juurlink Gagne and Clay swam the backstroke in times of 1:40.11 and 2:02.06, respectively.

The Golden Eagles will be back in action at UNH on Jan. 26, at 9:30 a.m.

Sports Editor Joshua Spaulding can be reached at 279-4516, ext. 155 or josh@salmonpress.news.

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OBITUARY

Frederick Joseph Boelzner, Sr.

Frederick Joseph Boelzner Sr., 89, of Alton, NH, died peacefully at his home on Sunday, December 22, 2024 surrounded by his loving family. He was born on May 10, 1935 in Jersey City, NJ.



After graduating from Scotch Plains High School (NJ) in 1952, Fred went to work at Woods Newspaper where he built and repaired stereo-type equipment. In 1964, he left Woods and went to work for Sears Roebuck as an appliance repair technician.

Fred married Gini, the love of his life, on May 18, 1957 and moved to Piscataway, NJ, where they raised four children. Fred moved his family to Alton in 1974 where he continued to live for 50 years.

As a member of the Knights of Columbus (4th degree), Fred forged lasting friendships, which he treasured. After the passing of Gini, Fred enjoyed his time with the "guys" playing cards and going out to eat. He would often comment that the friendships with Father Jon, Ray and Dick brought such joy and comfort to

his life. Fred is survived by his four children: Rick Boelzner of Alton, Edward Boelzner (Carol) of Manchester, Lianne Boelzner of Conway, and Greg and wife Melisa Boelzner of Alton. He had 11 grandchildren and 12 great grandchildren.

Fred was predeceased by his loving wife Virginia (Gini), grandson Edward (EJ) Boelzner Jr., and daughter-in-law Karen M. Boelzner.

A memorial service will be held at St. Katharine Drexel Parish in Alton, NH on January 18th at 11 am. In lieu of flowers, a donation in his name can be made to the Knights of Columbus #7533, c/o St. Katharine Drexel, PO Box 180, Wolfboro NH 03894 or the Alton Senior Center, 7 Pearson Road, Alton NH 03809.

Dillon Lee Miller named to President's List at Elon University

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Dillon Lee Miller, a 2025 graduate of Prospect Mountain High School, has been named to the President's List for the 2024 fall semester at Elon University.



The President's List is composed of students with no grade below an A-minus in a minimum of 12 semester hours.

Elon University is a nationally recognized leader in engaged, experiential learning that prepares graduates to be creative, resilient, ambitious, and ethical citizens of our global culture.

and career development. More than 70 undergraduate majors are complemented by professional and graduate programs in law, business, education, and health care. Elon is ranked No. 1 for excellence in undergraduate teaching by U.S. News & World Report. Elon's academic divisions include Elon

College, the College of Arts and Sciences; the Martha and Spencer Love School of Business; the School of Communications; the Dr. Jo Watts Williams School of Education; the School of Health Sciences; and the School of Law, with programs in Greensboro and Charlotte, North Carolina.

HOCKEY

(continued from Page A1) in had a bid go high and another stopped while Ethan Girard sent a shot on net and Ellingson and Embree had bids go wide.

Belmont-Gilford went on the five-minute power play with 2:40 to go in the period and Guerin, Byars and Embree had chances before a Bulldog penalty with 20 seconds left made it four-on-four to close the period and then to start the third period.

Just 34 seconds into the period, PAC was able to tie the game at one. Guerin and Ethan Girard had chances before the

first penalty was killed and McGreevy made a save on a PAC shorthanded bid before the other penalty was killed.

With 12:04 to go in the game, Guerin made a great pass in front to Embree, who buried the shot on the open net for the 2-1 lead. McGreevy made another save and Guerin helped out with good defense. Ryder and Mercier had chances denied by the PAC goalie and Belmont-Gilford took a penalty with 7:54 to go. Embree had a good clear and McGreevy made a couple more saves before the penalty was killed off.

McGreevy made a couple more saves and Mercier, Guerin, Lien and Ryder had chances for the Bulldogs while Guerin had another good defensive stop. PAC had a breakaway chance that McGreevy saved and the Bulldogs held on for the 2-1 win.

Belmont-Gilford is scheduled to be in action on Saturday, Jan. 18, at Monadnock at 3:40 p.m. and will be hosting John Stark-Hopkinton on Wednesday, Jan. 22, at 5 p.m.

Sports Editor Joshua Spaulding can be reached at 279-4516, ext. 155 or josh@salmonpress.news.

MOORE

(continued from Page A4) astonishing accomplishments in history.

Witnesses tell stories that only deepen the intrigue. Flatbed trucks loaded with enormous coral stones would arrive at Edward's property, yet no one ever saw how he got the stones onto the trucks or offloaded them once they arrived. Drivers would return in the morning to find their cargo unloaded and perfectly positioned, as if by magic.

One neighbor claimed to have seen Edward late one night, standing near an enormous stone that seemed to "float" into place. The neighbor described the block as if it defied gravity, though this account has often been dismissed as the

product of awe and exaggeration.

Another story comes from a truck driver who left a delivery of coral stones overnight. By morning, the stones had been removed and arranged within the Coral Castle with no visible equipment or assistance.

Edward himself only added to the mystery with cryptic statements like, "I understand the secrets of weight and leverage," and, "I've discovered the secrets of the pyramids."

These remarks fueled speculation that Edward had tapped into lost knowledge or harnessed forces beyond modern understanding.

The Coral Castle features towering monoliths, a perfectly balanced gate that pivots with a

finger's touch, and spiral staircases carved from single blocks of coral. Each piece showcases a level of craftsmanship and ingenuity that seems impossible for one man to achieve.

Edward's ability to transform raw coral into this intricate masterpiece leaves us marveling at both the structure and the enduring allure of mystery.

Edward Leedskalnin's methods may forever remain a secret, locked away with him, but his creation continues to captivate visitors and defy explanation.

So, the next time you laugh when someone says, "Anything is possible," remember the Coral Castle and the man who made the impossible real.

Happy New Year from Alton Community Services

ALTON - Happy New Year and Happy Winter from Alton Community Services.

A great big thank-you to everyone who supported Alto Community Services in 2024. Your generosity keeps us going. A special thank you to ABA for their donation made as a result of the Festival of Trees. We were able to help 43 families with baskets

at Thanksgiving and another 22 families with our annual Mrs. Santa program.

If you have been shopping in Alton, you may have seen our Lucite donation boxes at the Bay Diner, PUB 23, Alton Home and Lumber, Alton Village Store, VFW and the Circle Store. We appreciate your willingness to give us your change over the

coming months. "Pennies make dollars" and you will be making a change in the lives of your neighbors. Clientele numbers continue to grow and your support continues to provide assistance wo your neighbors in need. ACS is available for assistance with rent, fuel and other needs that may arise for families within the Alton community.

Lasell University students named to Dean's List

NEWTON, Mass. — The following local students were named to Lasell University's Fall 2024 Dean's List:

- conia Emily Watson of Gilford
- Carson Tucker of Laconia

Dean's List, Lasell students must complete at least 12 credits as a full-time student and acheive a semester GPA of 3.5 or higher.

To be named to the

Church Service SCHEDULE

ABUNDANT HARVEST FAMILY CHURCH
Alton 9:30 a.m. Sun. Meeting at Prospect Mountain High School. Pastor Ben Ruhl, www.befreechurch.net.

ALTON BAY CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE CENTER
Sundays throughout the summer 10 am & 7 pm: 875-6161.

BEEFREE COMMUNITY CHURCH, ALTON
Alton 9:30 a.m. Sun. Meeting at Prospect Mountain High School. Pastor Ben Ruhl, www.befreechurch.net.

CENTER BARNSTEAD CHRISTIAN CHURCH
Worship Service 10:00am Bible Study 11:15am Rte 126 next to Town Hall Call or Text (603) 269-8831 centerbarnsteadcc.org

CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY OF PRAISE C.O.P. PRAISE GATHERING
Gathering Saturdays at 4:00pm The Gilmanston Community Church 1803 NH Route 140, Gilmanston, NH cccoppraisegathering@gmail.com

COMMUNITY CHURCH OF ALTON
Pastor Jared Cassidy 10am Worship service Sunday 20 Church St Alton (603) 875-5561 www.ccaalton.com

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FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF NEW DURHAM NH
Sun. School 9:30am; Church 10:30am; Evening Service 6pm; Wed. Prayer Meeting 7pm. Depot St., New Durham; Pastor Ryan Blackard

PARADE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF BARNSTEAD, N.H.
on the Parade in Barnstead Sunday Morning Worship Service for all ages begin at 9:00 a.m. Prayer Meeting - April through November at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday Evenings. Pastor Sandy Pierson - 483-2846

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40 Hidden Springs Rd., Alton, 875-2548 Father Robert F. Cole, Pastor. Mass Saturday 4pm; Sunday 8:30 & 10:30am; Daily Mass Mon., Tues., Wed., Fri. 8:00am.

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Sunday 9:30, 50 Main St., Pittsfield Rev. Miriam Acevedo with Rev. Stephen Ekerberg www.ststephenspittsfield.com

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Rt. 171 at Tugboatton Corner Sunday services 10:30 am. Church 603-539-8058

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SPORTS

Timber Wolves grapple at Winnisquam Winter Classic

BY JOSHUA SPAULDING
Sports Editor

TILTON — Some members of the Prospect Mountain wrestling team competed at the Winnisquam Winter Classic on Saturday in Tilton.

The top finisher for the Timber Wolves was Robert Prescott, who finished in third at 215 pounds. He started with pins of wrestlers from Raymond and Manchester West before being pinned by an Al-

virne wrestler. He then pinned a Franklin wrestler and won the third place bout by forfeit over a Manchester West opponent.

At 165 pounds, Jaxon Stephens got a pin of a

Stevens opponent, then lost by technical fall to Kearsarge and was pinned by a Lebanon opponent to end his day. At 157 pounds, Bradan Berkins was pinned by Masenic and Raymond oppo-

nents. Andrew Koralski was pinned by opponents from Winnisquam and Manchester West at 120 pounds and Natalie Cowser was pinned by wrestlers from Monadnock and Kingswood at 132 pounds. At 150 pounds, Logan Andrews pinned an Alvirne opponent to start, was pinned by a Portsmouth foe,

came back to pin a Concord opponent before being pinned by a wrestler from Alvirne.

The Timber Wolves will be in action at Winnisquam on Wednesday, Jan. 22, at 6 p.m.

Sports Editor Joshua Spaulding can be reached at 279-4516, ext. 155 or josh@salmonpress.news.

Golden Eagles sweep meet at Gunstock

BY JOSHUA SPAULDING
Sports Editor

GILFORD — The Gilford alpine ski team swept a meet at Gunstock on Friday, Jan. 10, kicking off the season by winning both the morning giant slalom and afternoon slalom for the boys and the girls.

In the morning giant slalom for the boys, Bode McLean got the overall win in 53.35 seconds for first place, with Benjamin Wolpin in fifth place in 59.84 seconds. Gavin Irons was sixth in 1:00.9 and Elliot Warren was seventh overall in 1:01.63.

Oliver Leandro was

13th in 1:03.47, Joel Wernig was 14th in 1:03.75, Kyle Gandini was 19th in 1:05.94, Zachary Arenstam placed 21st in 1:06.99, Keenan Wilcox was 27th in 1:16.52 and Gabriel Bates was 32nd overall in 1:21.72.

McLean won the afternoon slalom in a time of 51.69 seconds with Leandro placing seventh in 1:07.59. Wernig was eighth in 1:07.66 and Gandini finished the scoring with a time of 1:08.98 for ninth place.

Irons was 10th in 1:09.23, Wolpin was 12th in 1:11.4, Arenstam was 19th in 1:22.96, Bates was 20th in 1:25.18 and Wil-

cox was 22nd overall in 1:36.03.

For the girls in the morning giant slalom, Mckenna Howard finished in second place overall in a time of 58.77 seconds, with Riley Coutts in third place in 59.01 seconds and Lily Bishop in sixth in 1:01.35. Emilia Burlock finished the scoring with a ninth place finish in 1:02.62.

Ava Lien was 11th in 1:07.16, Camryn Coutts was 12th in 1:07.47, Brooke Baron was 22nd in 1:15.46, Megan Legro was 24th in 1:17.6 and Josie Arrighi was 29th in 1:21.2.

Howard finished sec-

ond in the afternoon slalom as well with a time of 1:01.7, with Bishop in third in 1:01.88. Burlock was seventh in 1:08.8 and Lien was 13th in 1:17.44 to finish the scoring.

Camryn Coutts was 14th in 1:20.54, Baron was 17th in 1:23.14, Legro was 20th in 1:28.7 and Arrighi was 22nd in 1:31.65.

The Golden Eagles are slated to be back at Gunstock on Friday, Jan. 17, at 10 a.m. and will be at Sunapee on Tuesday, Jan. 21, at 1:30 p.m.

Sports Editor Joshua Spaulding can be reached at 279-4516, ext. 155 or josh@salmonpress.news.

Alpine Timber Wolves kick off season at Gunstock

BY JOSHUA SPAULDING
Sports Editor

GILFORD — The Prospect Mountain alpine ski team took to the slopes of Gunstock on Friday, Jan. 10, for a meet hosted by Belmont High School. Skiers

skied two runs of giant slalom in the morning and two runs of slalom in the afternoon.

For the Timber Wolf boys in the morning giant slalom, Evan Fuller was 31st overall in 1:18.63, Charles Bravar

was 33rd in 1:22.05 and Brady Glidden skied to 35th place in 1:25.27.

In the afternoon slalom, Fuller was 23rd overall in 1:36.48, Bravar was 27th in a time of 1:44.64 and Glidden skied to 29th place in 1:48.76.

Prospect is slated to compete at Gunstock again on Friday, Jan. 17, at 10 a.m.

Sports Editor Joshua Spaulding can be reached at 279-4516, ext. 155 or josh@salmonpress.news.

HIGH SCHOOL SLATE

Thursday, Jan. 16

KENNETT

Boys' Hoops vs. Berlin; 6
Girls' Hoops at Berlin; 6
Unified Hoops vs. Gorham; 3
KINGSWOOD
Indoor Track at UNH; 4
Unified Hoops at Plymouth; 3

Friday, Jan. 17

KENNETT

Alpine Skiing at Cranmore; 10
Ski Jumping at Hanover; 6
KINGSWOOD
Alpine Skiing at Cranmore; 10
Boys' Hoops at Coe-Brown; 6:30
Girls' Hoops vs. Coe-Brown; 6
KINGSWOOD-PROSPECT MOUNTAIN
Girls' Hockey vs. Pinkerton; 5
PROSPECT MOUNTAIN
Boys' Hoops at Gilford; 6
Girls' Hoops vs. Gilford; 6

Saturday, Jan. 18

KENNETT

Girls' Hockey vs. Salem; 6
KINGSWOOD
Boys' Hockey vs. Berlin-Gorham; 5

Sunday, Jan. 19

KENNETT

Indoor Track at UNH; 2:30
KINGSWOOD
Indoor Track at UNH; 2:30
PROSPECT MOUNTAIN
Indoor Track at UNH; 2:30
Monday, Jan. 20
KENNETT
Boys' Hockey at Pembroke-Campbell; 1:30
PROSPECT MOUNTAIN
Boys' Hoops vs. Berlin; 6
Girls' Hoops at Berlin; 6
Tuesday, Jan. 21
KINGSWOOD
Unified Hoops at Gorham; 11:30

Wednesday, Jan. 22

KENNETT

Girls' Hockey at Bishop Guertin; 5:50
Nordic Skiing at Profile; 2:30
Unified Hoops at Plymouth; 3
KINGSWOOD
Wrestling vs. Alvirne; 6
KINGSWOOD-PROSPECT MOUNTAIN
Girls' Hockey at Bishop Brady; 7
PROSPECT MOUNTAIN
Boys' Hoops vs. Belmont; 6
Girls' Hoops at Belmont; 6
Wrestling at Winnisquam; 6
Thursday, Jan. 23
KENNETT
Boys' Hoops at Bishop Brady; 6:30
Girls' Hoops vs. Bishop Brady; 6

All schedules are subject to change.

Thursday, Jan. 16

BELMONT

Boys' Hoops vs. St. Thomas; 6
Unified Hoops vs. Inter-Lakes; 3

GILFORD

Indoor Track at UNH; 4
Friday, Jan. 17
BELMONT
Alpine Skiing at Gunstock; 10
Swimming at Keene; 6

GILFORD

Alpine Skiing at Gunstock; 10
Boys' Hoops vs. Prospect Mountain; 6
Girls' Hoops at Prospect Mountain; 6
WINNISQUAM
Boys' Hoops at White Mountains; 6
Girls' Hoops vs. White Mountains; 7

Saturday, Jan. 18

BELMONT-GILFORD

Boys' Hockey at Monadnock; 3:45
WINNISQUAM
Boys' Hockey vs. Pembroke-Campbell; 3:45
Wrestling at Merrimack; 9
Sunday, Jan. 19
BELMONT
Indoor Track at UNH; 2:30
GILFORD
Indoor Track at UNH; 2:30
WINNISQUAM
Indoor Track at UNH; 2:30
Monday, Jan. 20

GILFORD

Boys' Hoops vs. Winnisquam; 6
Girls' Hoops at Winnisquam; 7

WINNISQUAM

Boys' Hoops at Gilford; 6
Girls' Hoops vs. Gilford; 7

Tuesday, Jan. 21

BELMONT

Boys' Hoops at Inter-Lakes; 6
Girls' Hoops vs. Inter-Lakes; 6

GILFORD

Alpine Skiing at Sunapee; 1:30

Wednesday, Jan. 22

BELMONT

Boys' Hoops at Prospect Mountain; 6
Girls' Hoops vs. Prospect Mountain; 6
Unified Hoops vs. Laconia; 3
BELMONT-GILFORD
Hockey vs. John Stark-Hopkinton; 5

GILFORD

Boys' Hoops at Inter-Lakes; 6
Girls' Hoops vs. Inter-Lakes; 6
Nordic Skiing at Hopkinton; 3
Unified Hoops at Kingswood; 3
WINNISQUAM
Wrestling vs. Prospect Mountain; 6

All schedules are subject to change.



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LEGALS

PUBLIC NOTICE TO ALTON RESIDENTS PURSUANT TO RSA 669:19; 652:20 THE FILING PERIOD FOR FILING DECLARATIONS OF CANDIDACY

JANUARY 22, 2025 THROUGH JANUARY 31, 2025

The following Town and School District positions are open for filing:

TOWN OF ALTON POSITIONS:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|
| Two (2) Selectmen | 3 Year Terms |
| One (1) Treasurer | 2 Year Term |
| One (1) Trustee of Trust Funds | 3 Year Term |
| Two (2) Library Trustees | 3 Year Terms |
| Two (2) Budget Committee Members | 3 Year Terms |
| One (1) Budget Committee Member | 2 Year Term |
| Two (2) Planning Board Members | 3 Year Terms |
| One (1) Supervisor of the Checklist | 5 Year Term |
| Two (2) Zoning Board Members | 3 Year Terms |

ALTON SCHOOL DISTRICT POSITIONS:

- | | |
|------------------------------|--------------|
| One (1) Moderator | 1 Year Term |
| One (1) School Clerk | 1 Year Term |
| One (1) School Treasurer | 1 Year Term |
| Two (2) School Board Members | 3 Year Terms |

Filing papers are available at the Alton Town Hall, Town Clerk's Office.
Office hours: Monday – Thursday 7:00 A.M. - 5:30 P.M.; January 31, 2025 3:00 – 5:00 P.M.

Jennifer Collins
Alton Town Clerk

Shaker Regional School District PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF TIME LIMIT FOR FILING CANDIDACIES FOR SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS OF THE SHAKER REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

The undersigned clerk of the School District hereby gives notice of the time limit for declaration of candidacy from this school district for election of moderator and school board members of the Shaker Regional School District. The filing period will start Wednesday, January 22, 2025.

The election will occur during the annual voting on Tuesday, March 11, 2025 and will be conducted under the non-partisan ballot law.

Positions to be filled at the election are:

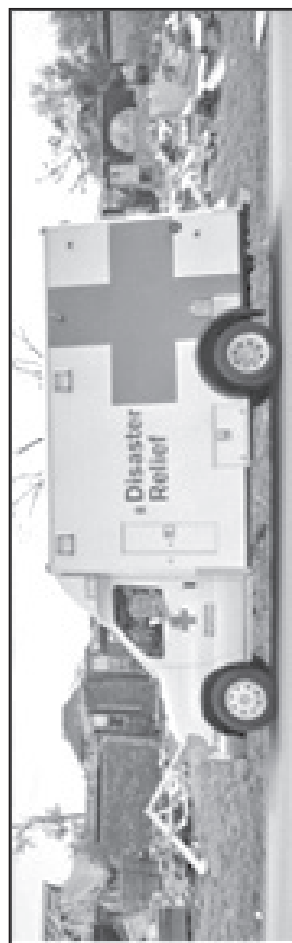
- Moderator – one member to serve for two years
- Belmont School Board Member – one member to serve for three years
- Canterbury School Board Member – one member to serve for three years

Written declaration of candidacy must be filed prior to 5:00 pm on Friday, January 31, 2025 in order for the name of the candidate to appear on the ballot. A filing fee of \$1.00 is required. Forms may be obtained from the Superintendent of School's Office; 58 School Street; Belmont, NH 03220, telephone number 603-267-9223.

No person may file a declaration of candidacy for more than one position of the School Board to be elected at such election. Any qualified voter in each of the pre-existing districts named above is eligible to file for the position to be filled from that District. All candidates will be elected at large.

Diane Clary, Clerk
Shaker Regional School District

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THE REAL REPORT

RECENT REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS

Town	Address	Type	Price	Seller	Buyer
Gilford	22 Spy Gold Lane	N/A	\$600,000	Stone Brook Hills LLC	Aw Towne RT
Gilmanton	563 Stage Rd.	Single-Family Residence	\$610,000	Jackson Fiscal Trust and Steven K. Jackson	Stephanie M. Friece
Gilmanton	N/A	N/A	\$206,533	Christine Barry	Brenda A. Waslicki RET
Gilmanton	N/A	N/A	\$16,000	Doris Burke	Patricia T. Fox and Gary F. Clarke

ABOUT THE REAL REPORT

Here are recent real estate transactions in Alton and the surrounding areas. These sales summaries are informational only, not a legal record. Names shown are usually the first listed in the deed. Sales might involve additional parties or locations. Prices are usually based on tax stamps and might be inaccurate for public agency sales. Refer to actual public documents before forming opinions or relying on this information. Additional publicly recorded information on these sales, prior sales and data from Department of Revenue Administration forms is available at www.real-data.com or 669-3822. Copyright 2011. Real Data Corp. In the column "Type": land= land only; L/B= land and building; MH= mobile home; and COND=condominium.



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(The Fair Housing Act of 1968 at 42 U.S.C, 3604(c))


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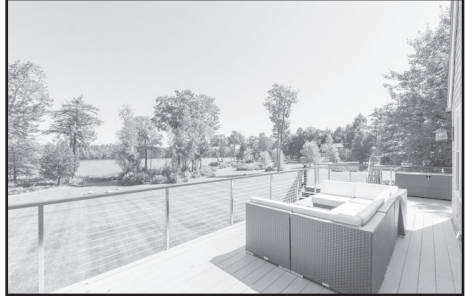
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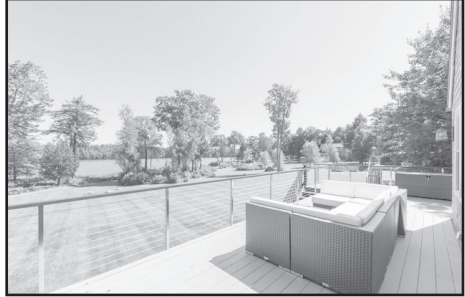




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US women mogul skiers lead the charge into Waterville Valley FIS World Cup

BY DAN EGAN

Contributing Writer

WATERVILLE VALLEY — The US women's mogul team is a freestyle skiing powerhouse. For the last several years, they have been dominating the standings in the FIS Freestyle World Cup. Currently, the US has five women in the top 10 on the leaderboard, and the entire team is full of Olympic and World Championship medalists, all vying for a podium finish at any given event.

2022 Olympic silver medalist Jaelin Kauf holds the yellow bib on the leaderboard in dual moguls. Olympian Olivia Giaccio, fresh off a first-place finish in the last event in Burkuriani, Georgia, is currently second overall in singles. Tess Johnson currently sits in sixth place in Singles, and Kensington's Kasey Hogg is in ninth place overall in singles and seventh in duals. Kai Owens, rookie of the year in 2021, is currently sitting 10th in the world.

As the US women's team rolls into Waterville Valley Resort for the FIS Freestyle World Cup event on Jan. 24 and 25, they are being chased by the best in the world. Hot on their tails are Australia's 2022 Olympic gold medalist Jakara Anthony, and France's 2018 Olympic gold medalist, Perrine Laffont, who are sitting first and third on the tour in singles, respectively.

Legendary Waterville Valley mogul coach Suzi Preston comments, "The US women are the real deal; almost always, three of them are in the top 10 at any event. Kauf is known as the fastest skier on the tour, and Johnson could be the most technical skier."

And the east coast is well represented.

"Giaccio is a Kill-



US SKI TEAM — COURTESY PHOTO

New Hampshire's Kasey Hogg skiing her way onto the podium at Waterville Valley at National Championships 2024.

ington girl," says former Olympic Coach Nick Preston. "And Hogg is a New Hampshire skier who placed second in the US National Championships last year. She is one of the most dynamic skiers on the tour and loves the track on Lower Bobby's Run at Waterville Valley. She could be the one to watch for this upcoming event."

The men will be equally exciting to watch at Waterville Valley. Canadian Mikaël Kingsbury is the most accomplished mogul skier of all time, with 86 World Cup Victories. Kingsbury is tied for sixth in career World Cup wins across all skiing disciplines, equal with Swedish skiing icon Ingemar Stenmark.

And that is just the beginning of his dominance of the sport. He has won the FIS Freestyle World Cup 10 times in moguls and is a nine-time overall freestyle champion. Kingsbury is the first man to have won both moguls and dual moguls World Championships. He is a 2014 and 2022 Olympic silver medalist and 2018 Olympic hold medalist. Last season,

he won the 2024 FIS World Cup duals event at Waterville Valley.

"Watching Kingsbury is watching history," stated Preston. "To see the world's best mogul skier of all time right here in New Hampshire is an opportunity you don't want to miss. This guy is powerful, smooth, and fast. He goes huge off the jumps and makes it look easy top to bottom every time."

The US men's team currently has three of the top 20 in the 2025 standings. Olympian Nick Page sits in 10th overall. In 2022, he became the first American to win a World Cup event in six years, the most extended drought in US history. He was second in the US Nationals last year and 10th at the 2024 World Cup, both events hosted at Waterville Valley. Currently in 14th place on the World Cup Tour and hailing from Bristol Mountain, N.Y., Dylan Walczyk is a long-time US men's team veteran with 120 World Cup starts with three podium finishes and 12 top-five finishes.

The Swedish men's team has three in the top 10 this year on the Tour. Olympic Champion Walter Wallberg is currently in second overall, Rasmus Stegfeldt sits in fifth and was third overall in 2024. Filip Gravenfors, at 21 years of age, sits in eighth overall for the season.

"The Swedish men's team is powerful; they explode through the

bumps and blast off the jumps. Not fluid like the French or as fast as the Japanese, but that makes it all so fun to watch," exclaimed Preston.

Training runs for the 2025 FIS Freestyle World Cup start on Jan. 23, the men's and women's moguls are on Jan. 24, and the men's and women's duals are on Jan. 25. All the events are held on Lower Bobby's Run. General Admission tickets are only \$25, and new this year is a spectator vendor village just outside the finish line of the event.

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